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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF CHILE

IPF:(1992-96) $9 450 000

(CHI/92/013) - Consolidation of the Scientific and Technological Infrastructure in Research Centers and Universities

Date of approval by the AC:[1]	5 August 1992
Expected duration:	36 months
Proposed executing agency:	Government
Government implementing agency:	CONICYT in cooperation with UNDP/OPS
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$ 400 000 Source of funds: IPF
Government cost sharing:	$ 18 000 000
Total UNDP budget:	$ 18 400 000

Project background

Economic success in Chile has largely been the result of the opening of the economy and a very active export promotion strategy. Within this context, Science and Technology development has been accorded high priority as a means to improve the quality and competitiveness of Chilean production within international markets. UNDP has been a major partner in the efforts of the country to boost its scientific and technological capacity and its application to the private sector. During the Third Cycle UNDP supported the improvement of basic sciences and the strengthening of the corresponding human resources. The Fourth Country Programme was devoted entirely to the nation's scientific and technological development through the interaction between the supply of scientific knowledge and services and the demand for them on the part of the private sector.

This cycle has resulted in fundamental knowledge on new technologies, relevant technical information for the negotiation of imported technologies, and the development of technological innovations and new products. Furthermore, UNDP support resulted in the adoption of a national science and technology policy, in the decentralization of the science and technology system, and the formulation of the National Science and Technology Programme costing (US)$184 million over four years. The above-mentioned project is being partly financed by the IDB with (US)$65 million and consists of the simultaneous operation of three funds FONDECYT, FONDEF and FONDEC which will support projects on basic research, applied research and development respectively; and each of which from their respective angle aims at the incorporation of technological innovation for productive processes.

UNDP's follow-up during this cycle seeks to operationalize the policies it has been involved with in the past, with specific emphasis on the execution of particular components

[1] This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.

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of the National Science and Technology Programme. This will include support for the implementation of Research and Development projects which will be financed by FONDEF and executed by teams constituted of regional Universities and their partners from the private sector, as well as support for CONICYT to centrally procure the equipment required by the Universities to carry out the afore-mentioned projects, create a network for the efficient use of scientific and technological equipment, and monitor and evaluate the research and development projects.

The Government is relying on UNDP participation to be an objective arbiter and supportive partner as regard equipment distribution between 18 national and regional universities. The project thus becomes a process that requires constant review of where what can achieve its maximum potential.

Description of project

The long-term objective of the project is to contribute to the social and economic development of the country through incorporation of technological innovations into the production system, and allowance of private industry to compete successfully in international markets.

The immediate objectives of the project are to:(a) optimize the use of available resources in the national scientific and technological pool by generating an information system with the state of the art equipment introduced; (b) create and operate a unit charged with the maintenance and updating of the system, and its accessibility for consultation by the entire country; (c) reinforce the management capacity of CONICYT for the monitoring, control and evaluation of research and development projects, and its integration into the International System of scientific and technological coordinating organizations; and (d) endow universities with the basic material infrastructure which will allow them to develop technological research and reinforce the negotiating capacity of CONICYT in the identification, selection and acquisition of scientific equipment.

Project activities will include:(a) maintaining the existence of a permanently updated cadastre of scientific equipment; (b) establishing a communications system for the utilization of the cadastre by operators throughout the country; (c) developing methodologies for the monitoring and evaluation of FONDEF financed projects; (d) making groups of scientists and investigators proficient in the use of the new equipment; and (e) providing universities and investigative centers with the necessary equipment to execute research and development projects.

Inputs

UNDP will provide international consultants in epistemometry, scientific innovation, management of research projects and identification and preparation of specification for specialized equipment; national consultants in scientific advising and procurement of technical equipment, as well as a national coordinator; a subcontract to evaluate research projects; and scientific and technological equipment.

Financial data

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Personnel	363 500
Subcontract	12 500
Equipment	18 000 000
Miscellaneous	24 000
Total	18 400 000

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